

Message Text

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63

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 AID-20 EB-11 MC-02 OMB-01 COME-00 TRSE-00

RSR-01 (ADP) W

----- 118399

R 171535Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4505

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 6925

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, CG, FR

SUBJECT: MIRAGES FOR ZAIRE?

1. ZAIRIAN OFFICIAL NEWS AGENCY (AZAP) AUG 17 INDIGNANTLY DENIED REPORT IN PARISIAN NEWSPAPER COMBAT THAT AMERICAN PRESSURE IS KEEPING ZAIRE FROM ORDERING 15 MIRAGE V FIGHER-BOMBERS. NEWS AGNECY IMPLIED FIRM ORDER FOR MIRAGES NOT YET PLACED, BUT SAID U.S. HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH MATTER. IN SEPARATE ARTICLE AZAP QUOTED FRENCH ECONOMIC MINISTRY AS HAVING ADMITTED FRENCH AIRCRAFT WERE "LESS INTERESTING" THAN AMERICAN PLANES UNDER CURRENT CONDITIONS. KINSHASA DAILY SALONGO CHIMED IN WITH EDITORIAL THAT NOTED U.S. EXPORTS WERE MORE COMPETITIVE AFTER DOLLAR DEVALUATION AND CASTIGATING COMBAT FOR PUBLISHING A SERIES OF PRO-PORTUGUESE ARTICLES.

COMMENT: EXACT STATUS OF MIRAGE PURCHASE IS UNKNOWN TO EMBASSY. DASSAULT RECENTLY FINISHED A TOUR OF ZAIRE WHICH INCLUDED A MEETING WITH PRESIDENT MOBUTU. SOURCES HERE INDICATE, HOWEVER, THAT LEADING ZAIRIAN
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MILITARY FIGURES ARE UNHAPPY OVER THE PRICE OF THE

MIRAGES AND THE PERIOD AND EXTENT OF FRENCH MILITARY
ASSISTANCE THEIR PURCHASE WOULD ENTAIL. WE HAVE HAD NO
CONTACT HERE IN RECENT MONTHS REGARDING MILITARY AIRCRAFT
BUT UNDERSTAND ZAIRIAN MILATT WASHINGTON HAS TALKED TO
DOD ABOUT PURCHASE OF AMERICAN MILITARY AIRCRAFT. WE
UNCLEAR AS TO WHAT AUTHORITY HE ACTING UPON.
VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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